



Congressman
Henry J. Hyde

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To: Congressional Liaison, DOJ
Fax #: 202-54-4482
Voice #: _____
Date: 7-6-05
Pages (Including This Cover): 3
Notes: _____

HENRY J. HYDE
6TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEES:

CHAIRMAN

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

JUDICIARY

50 EAST OAK STREET
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ADDISON, IL 60101-2800
(830) 832-5950

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1306

July 6, 2005

Mr. William Moschella
Assistant Attorney General for Office of Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Room 1145
Washington, D.C. 20530-0009

B6

VIA FACSIMILE:202-514-4482

Dear Mr. Moschella:

Attached is a letter I recently received from my constituent [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Illinois. As you can see he submitted an application for a Presidential Pardon on June 16, 2001. In September of 2004 he added additional information by sending it to Ms. Hope McGowan. As of this date he has not heard anything relevant to the status of his application.

Therefore, it would be most helpful if you would review and respond to this inquiry accordingly. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated and I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

Henry J. Hyde
Henry J. Hyde

HJH:kc
Attachment
Cc: [REDACTED]

RECEIVED
JUL 7 2005
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

B6

June 24, 2004

**Honorable Henry J. Hyde
50 E. Oak Street
Addison, IL 60101**

Dear Congressman Hyde,

I submitted an application for a Presidential Pardon on June 16, 2001. I received a return receipt from the Justice Dept. that they received the application on June 20, 2001.

am now [REDACTED] years old. I completed my probation on [REDACTED] 1973. I've also submitted more personal references and letters of good deeds to add to my original application. I've been sending them to the attention of Attorney Hope McGowan. I last added to my application in September of 2004. In October, Ms. McGowan sent me a letter confirming that she had received my additions. I have been unable to get the actual status of my application though. I would greatly appreciate it if you could make some inquiries as to exactly where my application is in the pardon process. I thank you in advance for your time and effort in this matter.

Sincerely,



U. S. Department of Justice

Pardon Attorney

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUL 29 2005

B6

The Honorable Henry J. Hyde
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
50 East Oak Street, Suite 200
Addison, Illinois 60101-2800

Dear Congressman Hyde:

This is in response to your letter of July 6, 2005 sent by facsimile to the Office of Legislative Affairs concerning the pardon application filed by your constituent, [REDACTED]. As Mr. [REDACTED] notes, my office has been in touch with him concerning his request for a pardon, and he has been interviewed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in connection with his request.

Mr. [REDACTED] application is still under consideration. The processing time for a pardon application can be lengthy, and we can give no assurance that final action will be taken within a particular time frame. Accordingly, we are unable to advise you when he may expect a decision on his application. Mr. [REDACTED] will be notified promptly, however, when a final decision is made.

Sincerely,

Roger C. Adams
Pardon Attorney

HENRY J. HYDE
5TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEES:
CHAIRMAN
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
JUDICIARY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1306

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50 EAST OAK STREET
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(630) 832-5950

September 5, 2001

Office of the Pardon Attorney
500 1st Street Northwest, Ste 400
Washington, D.C. 20530-2025

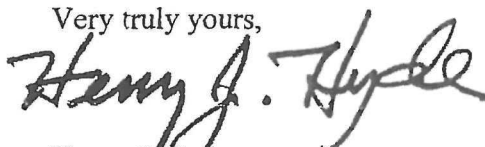
Dear Sir Or Madam:

My constituent, Joseph Bagdonas, has come to me seeking information on his Presidential Pardon request filed in 1998.

Mr. Bagdonas wrote to me earlier this year (letter enclosed) about the pardons issued by President Clinton. Mr. Bagdonas, now age 48, pled guilty to an unlawful transfer of an unregistered firearm felony gun charge in 1979, at the age of 25 years. He spent 30 days in a local county jail and served out the remaining 4 years and 11 months on probation. The probation was terminated early with the help and efforts of his probation officers and the original judge in his case. My office has had several contacts with Mr. Bagdonas through out the years and I am unaware of any misdeeds committed by Mr. Bagdonas since that time. I am sure you can understand his concerns in the light of the events surrounding the January pardons.

Any information concerning Mr. Bagdonas' pardon process that you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,


Henry J. Hyde

HJH:ah

February 13, 2001

Congressman Henry J. Hyde
50 East Oak Street
Suite 200
Addison, IL 60601

Congressman Hyde,

I am writing to you regarding what has been the subject of lots of media attention and debates, that being the recent Pardon of Marc Rich. Someone that was on the Justice Department's 10 most wanted list, with 51 Felony convictions, including over 100 million dollars in tax fraud, conducting business with Iran during the embargo and when they were holding our citizens hostage. Who had renounced his United States Citizenship, living in exile in Switzerland for the past 17 years, and someone who doesn't even want to return to the United States! But yet, his Pardon application was pushed through the process on the last day of President Clinton's day in office.

Further, 30 other Pardons were granted without any formal Pardon Applications even being filed with the Pardon Attorney, 14 Pardons granted, that were denied last year, and 3 others granted under other circumstances.

As you may recall from previous correspondences through the years you have been my Congressman in this district, I had a felony conviction from my youth that I have been attempting to get out from hanging over my head. First through a program that the ATF had years ago for the Restoration of Privileges, then through a lawsuit against the Government when fund was removed by Congress for the ATF to process any further applications. (If you may be aware, once an application had been filed, and was for any reason was denied, a new application could have been filed after two years.) Since Congress took away funds from the ATF to conduct any further background investigations or process any further applications, I had no recourse but to continue to appeal the one I had filed than had been turned down. Which I may add was totally discriminatory in nature!

The further appeal process involved filing a lawsuit against the Government which went up to the Appellate Court level. At that point, the attorney that was representing me on a pro-bono basis could not invest any further time in taking my case up to the Supreme Court level. And in consulting other attorneys, it would have been very difficult even getting my case heard before the Supreme Court.

Anyway, my only and last chance or recourse available to me, was to file an application with the Pardon Attorney, for a Presidential Pardon. I filed my application in 1998. I was informed that the process could take several years.

I patiently waited, having the process explained in detail to me. Upon hearing that some 60 Pardons had been granted by President Clinton in his last days in office, I contacted the Pardon Attorney to see if my application was among that list. It was not. Through the news media, I began hearing of some of the other Pardons that were granted, and naturally became very upset at a process that was so unfair, and without conscience.

Some of those granted Pardons were convicted of much more serious crimes that I pled guilty of, had 'numerous' crimes they were convicted of, and of a much more recent time period. My felony conviction occurred at my age of 25, back in 1979, now some 22 years old. I am soon to be 48 years old, and see these current events as nothing more than an injustice and discriminatory in nature.

I pled guilty of the unlawful transfer of an unregistered firearm, was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment, with 4 years and 11 months suspended, which means that I spent 30 days in jail (and in a local county jail) as was to serve out the remaining 4 years and 11 months on probation. Which I will tell you was terminated early with the help and efforts of my probation officers and by the original judge who presided over my case.

My original application with the ATF for the Restoration of Privileges should have been granted, and through my attorney and the Freedom of Information Act uncovered evidence that someone at the ATF was in favor of my application being approved. What transpired after that and why my application was denied is still a mystery.

I am writing to you in the hopes that you have some contact or influence with the Office of the Pardon Attorney, and President Bush. I understand that important work needs to be done in the transition of the Government during this time, but it is my understanding of the 'usual' and normal procedure of the Pardon process, is that the Pardon Attorney does provide the President with a recommendation on a pending application, and that the President will normally follow the recommendation of the Pardon Attorney. I know that President Bush is very busy at this time, however I also know that all it would take, is the time it takes to sign his name.

I would appreciate any actions you can take to help me in my efforts to get my application processed and approved. I feel that the recent events that you are probably more aware of than I am, shows that influence, money, and the rich and famous was a factor in approving Pardons were there even were no applications being filed for a Pardon. And while I have patiently waited since 1998 for some news on my application.

Where people who committed much more serious crimes than I, and against 'society' itself, as well as the American people. Those who had been convicted of crimes much more recently than in my circumstances. And who were sentenced to much longer periods of imprisonment, received preferential consideration than those simple individuals such as myself. With no money, no influence, no 'friends' in high positions, with a minor conviction of 22 years past, trying to use the 'system' , using available legal processes to get this resolved and out from hanging over my head.

If you desire, I can forward a copy of my original Pardon Application from 1998 to you. It is a lengthy document, in legal size and would take me a little time to get copied and sent to you. I also can fax it to you if you desire. I will also tell you that my contact at the Office of the Pardon Attorney has been Hope McGowan, an attorney that is assigned to my case. Her telephone number is (202)-616-6070.

If you have any need of further information from me, or documents please let me know. I will provide you with anything I have to help resolve this issue and get this behind me.

Thank you for your time,

Joseph K. Bagdonas

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Des Plaines, IL 60018



U. S. Department of Justice

Pardon Attorney

Washington, D.C. 20530

OCT 15 2001

The Honorable Henry J. Hyde
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-1306

Dear Congressman Hyde:

This responds to your letter to this office of September 5, 2001, concerning the application for presidential pardon filed by your constituent, Joseph Bagdonas.

Mr. Bagdonas's application for pardon remains under consideration. The processing time for a pardon application can be lengthy, and we can give no assurance that final action will be taken by the President within a particular time frame. Accordingly, we are unable to advise you when you may expect a decision on Mr. Bagdonas's application. He will be notified promptly, however, when a final decision is made.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger C. Adams".

Roger C. Adams
Pardon Attorney